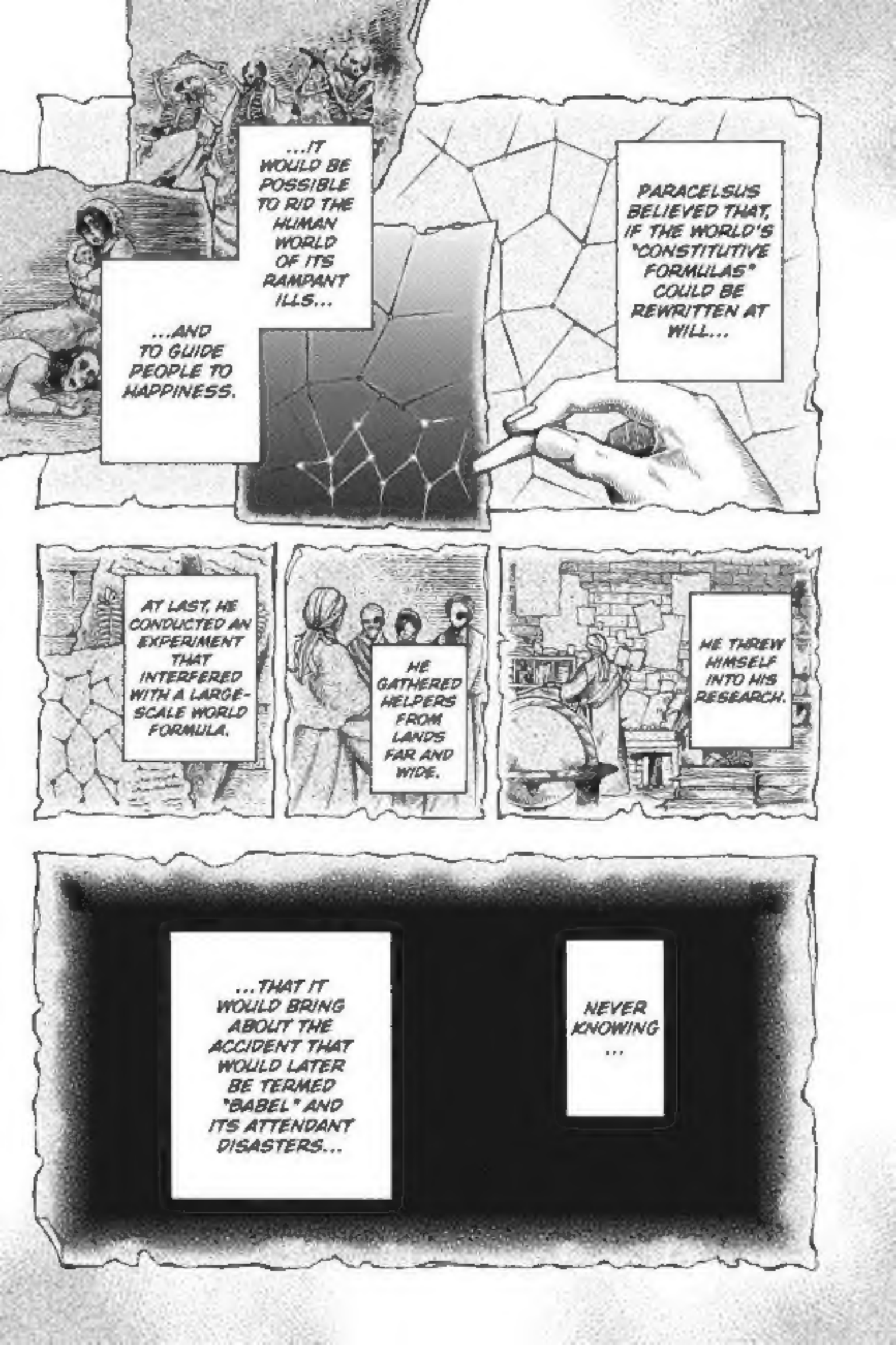
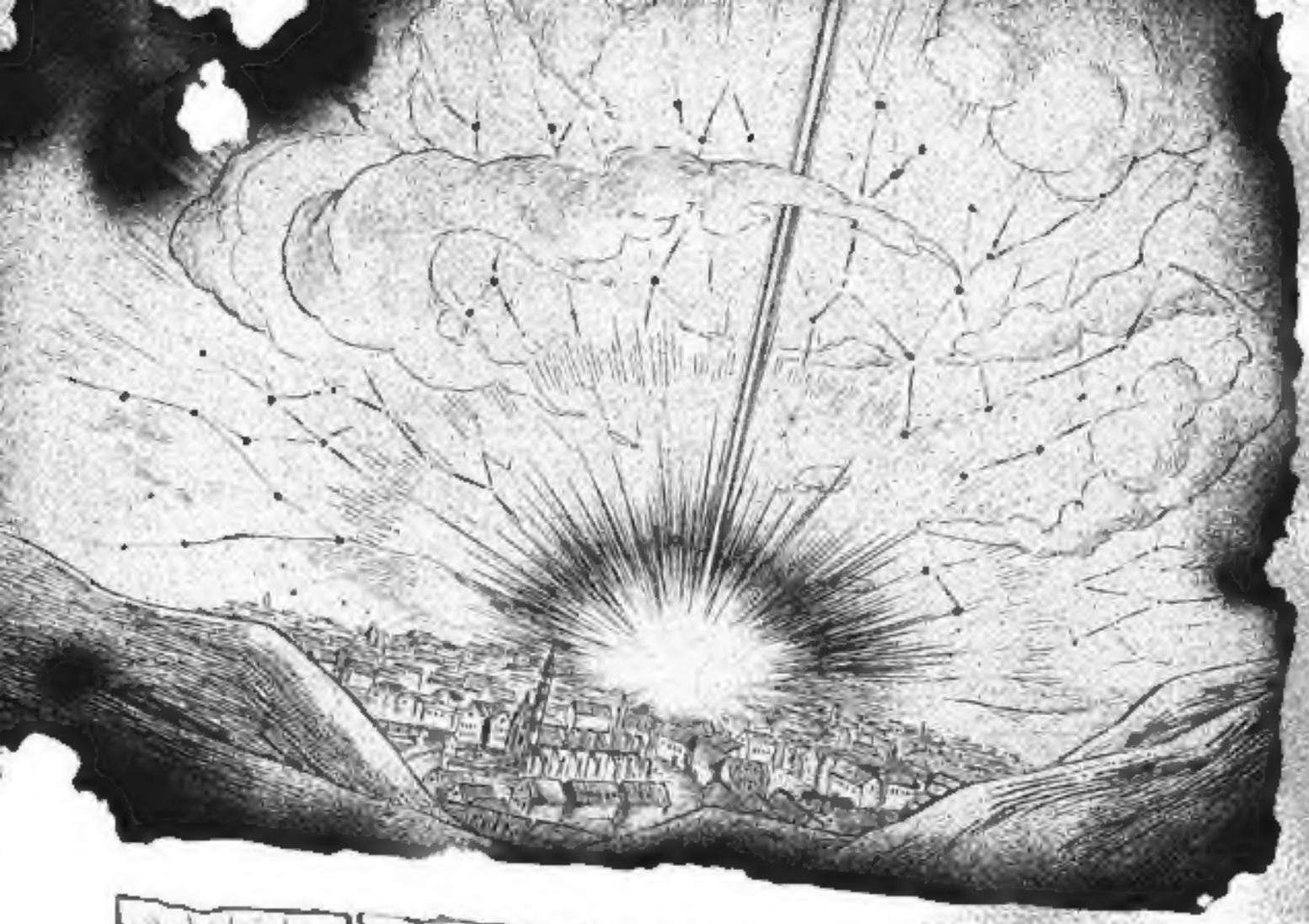
JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

THE "WORLD FORMULA" THEORY—

PROPOSED BY THE GREAT ALCHEMIST PARACELSUS, THIS THEORY POSITED A CERTAIN IDEA.
JUST NEXT DOOR TO THE WORLD WHERE HUMANS LIVED— ONE STEP BEYOND IT...
...LAY A DOMAIN WHERE THE WHOLE OF THIS WORLD HAD BEEN REPLACED BY "FORMULAS."


...IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RID THE HUMAN WORLD OF ITS RAMPANT ILLS...
...AND TO GUIDE PEOPLE TO HAPPINESS.
PARACELSUS BELIEVED THAT, IF THE WORLD'S "CONSTITUTIVE FORMULAS" COULD BE REWRITTEN AT WILL...
AT LAST, HE CONDUCTED AN EXPERIMENT THAT INTERFERED WITH A LARGE-SCALE WORLD FORMULA.
HE GATHERED HELPERS FROM LANDS FAR AND WIDE.
HE THREW HIMSELF INTO HIS RESEARCH.
...THAT IT WOULD BRING ABOUT THE ACCIDENT THAT WOULD LATER BE TERMED "BABEL" AND ITS ATTENDANT DISASTERS...
NEVER KNOWING ...

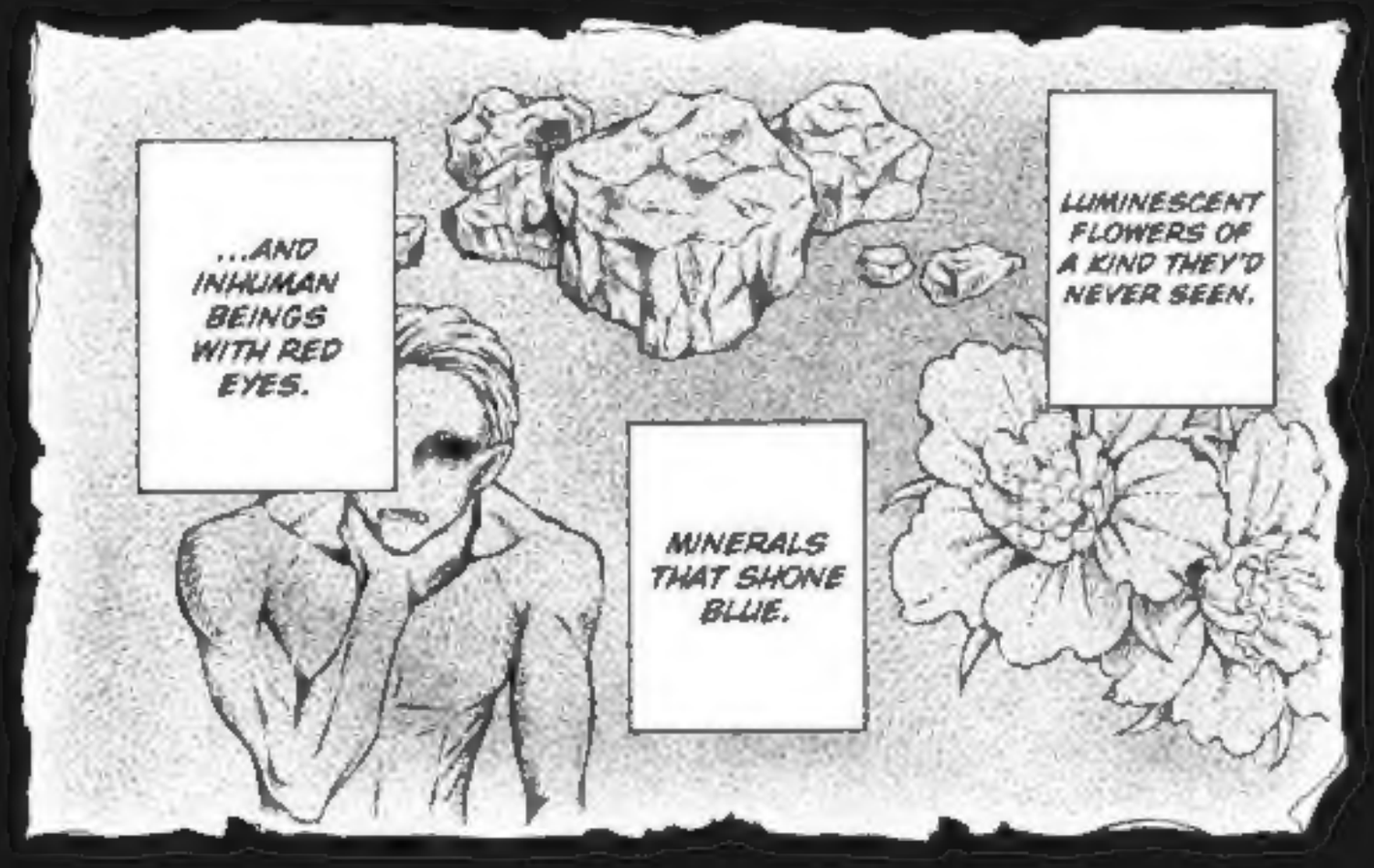


ALL THE PEOPLE COULD DO WAS PRAY TO GOD.
...BROUGHT DOWN A HOST OF CATACLYSMS UPON THE HUMAN WORLD.
BABEL...

...THEY NOTICED A CERTAIN WRONG-NESS.

WHEN THE STORM HAD FINALLY PASSED ...

"THE WORLD NOW HOLDS THINGS THAT WERE NOT THERE BEFORE."



DO YOU SEE, MON CHATON?
IN OTHER WORDS ...
...VAMPIRES...
...ARE A NEW RACE, BORN WHEN BABEL REWROTE HUMANITY'S CONSTITUTIVE FORMULA.
...WE BELIEVE ASTERMITE IS A MINERAL CREATED WHEN THE CONSTITUTIVE FORMULA FOR COAL WAS REWRITTEN. IN THE SAME WAY...

I EXPECT VERY FEW CHILDREN OF MEN STILL KNOW OF THIS FACT...OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE WORLD FORMULA.
HOWEVER, WE MUST NEVER FORGET.
THAT'S RIGHT.
...YOU AND ME TOO, TEACHER?
HM?
YOU... LOOK LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN, TEACHER.
AH, YES. I AM.
I'M HAVING FUN.
BECAUSE YOU CAME WITH ME.
I'M SURE, FROM NOW ON...

JUN MOCHIZUKI

THE CASE STUDY OF VANITAS

Mémoire 7 Bal Masqué

NIGHT OF SNEERING MASKS

FFF

I WOULDN'T FORGET.
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO IF YOU'D FORGOTTEN HOW TO DANCE WHILE YOU WERE OFF BE NG A HERMIT.
OH, GOOD.

WHAT'S WRONG? NOT FEELING WELL?
...

HA HA HA!
YOU DRUMMED IT INTO ME MERCILESSLY SO I'D BE ABLE TO DANCE WITH YOU.

IT KEEPS REMINDING ME OF WHAT I SAW.
MASKS... CLOWNS ...
... NO ..

!! OOH!
...IF ANYONE HERE NOT CES HE'S HUMAN—
YAY!
YAY!
I LET HIM COME ALONG AS A PARTICULAR FAVOR TO YOU, BUT...
I TRUST THAT HUMAN'S BEHAVING HIMSELF?
?
THAT ASIDE.

HERE, LOVELY YOUNG LADY.

CARE FOR A FLOWER?

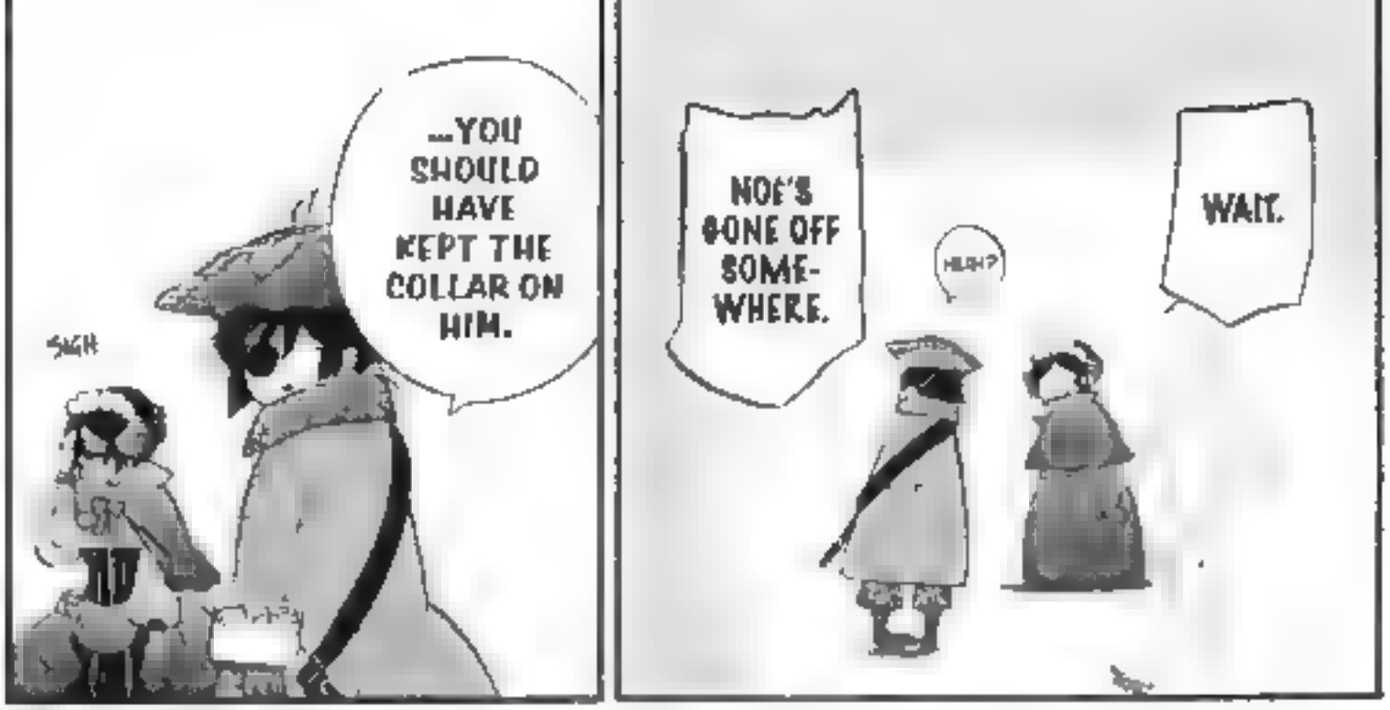
SU (SNIFF)
YOURS IS OVER HERE.
THAT'S WONDERFUL, CATHERINE.
MY, THANK YOU! MOTHER— LOOK, LOOK!
LUCKY SISTER!
THAT'S AMAZING! YOU CAN PUL OUT ANYTHING, CAN'T YOU!?
AH HA HA BRING OUT ANYTHING. HA HA
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING!?
AAAAH!

I'M WEARING THE POMANDER DOMINIQUE GAVE ME.
EVEN SHARP-NOSED VAMPIRES WON'T REALIZE I'M HUMAN, EVEN UP CLOSE.
THAT'S PRACTICALLY ALL YOU'VE BEEN SAYING TODAY, YOU KNOW!
YOU ARE MAKING ME SAY IT..

IF YOU SAY THINGS THAT COULD BE MISCONSTRUED, YOU'LL CAUSE TROUBLE FOR HER. SO DON'T.
DOMI IS MY PRECIOUS FRIEND.
ANYWAY, IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR LEAVING ME ON MY OWN SO YOU CAN CANOODLE.
"CANOO-DLE" WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW VAMPIRES DEFINE "FRIEND."
...

NOB WANTS MY BLOOD ...
...SIMPLY BECAUSE IT ISN'T THE FIRST TIME HE'S HAD IT.
DON'T DRAW THE BLADE IN THE BAR! PUT THAT IT OFF LIGHT!
DO YOU MEAN OUR EXCHANGE A LITTLE WHILE AGO?
NOB CAN CHANGE THE DEPTH AND DETAIL OF THE MEMORIES HE SEES AT WILL.
WHEN AN ARCHIVISTE DRINKS BLOOD FROM SOMEONE FOR THE FIRST TIME, THEY ARE FORCED TO SEE THEIR [redacted]
AND SO..
WELL I
I'M AN 'ARCHIVISTE,' SO.
...BUT HE DOESN'T FEEL IT'S RIGHT TO LOOK AT ANYONE'S MEMORIES WITHOUT PERMISSION.


SIGH
...YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT THE COLLAR ON HIM.
NOE'S GONE OFF SOME-WHERE.
HUH?
WAIT.

IN HERE.
WELL, NEVER MIND
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO SPEAK WITH YOU ALONE.

PREPARE THE USUAL, WOULD YOU?
YES MISTRESS
THE HOUSE OF SADE PURCHASED THIS BOX WE OWN IT.
...EVEN IF YOU CRY OR SCREAM, NO ONE WILL COME.
JUST SO YOU'RE AWARE ...

AUTOMATONS, HERE? HOW STRANGE. .
DOMI! WHAT SORT OF PERSON IS TONIGHT'S HOST?
I'D HEARD THAT, AS A RULE, VAMPIRES HATED HUMAN TECHNOLOGY
WHAT A THING TO HAPPEN!
THEY BOTH GOT LOST!?

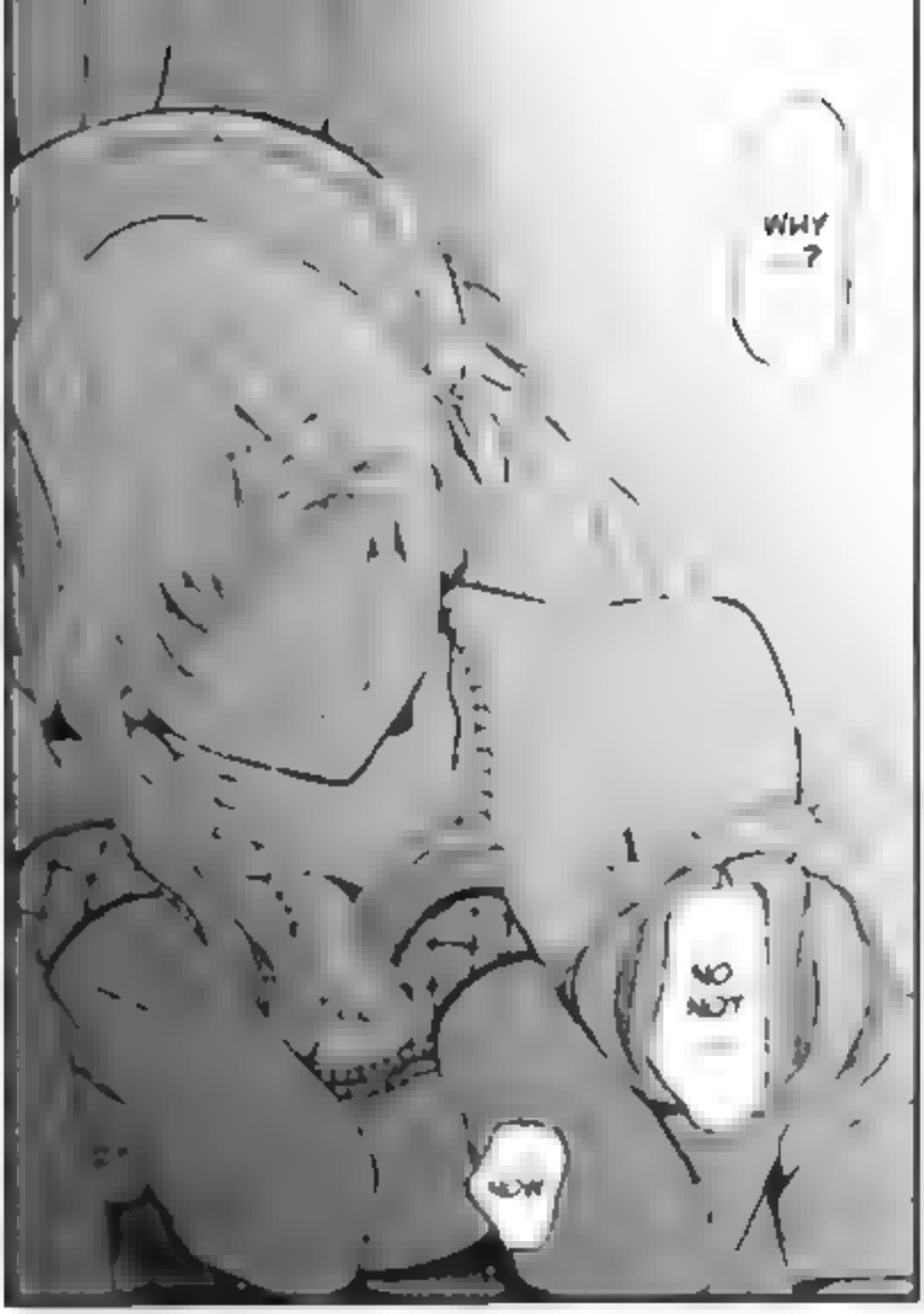
HASN'T THERE BEEN ANY NEWS AT ALL?
UNCLE HASN'T ARRIVED YET?
BATA (BUMP)
I'LL KEEP LOOKING FOR HER—
...JUST IN CASE, I WANT YOU TWO TO TELL MARQUIS MACHINA ABOUT UNCLE.
NO.
I HOPE NOTHING'S HAPPENED, BUT.
(RUMBLE)

!!?
AH.
WHY ARE YOU HERE ...!?

DON'T TELL ME... DID YOU FOLLOW US!?
NO, I'M..
HE'S
HE ...
"LU-CIUS" ?
WAIT. HE'S...
MASTER LUCIUS... WHO IS THIS?
HUH?
HE'S MY...
...FRIEND!!
ONE MOMENT!! I HAVE SOMETHING TERRIBLY IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU! LET'S GO OVER THERE, ALL RIGHT !!?
HUH ??
MASTER LUCIUS !?

HE SAID ...
...*US.*
THE WOMAN... IS SHE HERE TOO?
...
WH...

...HEY.


WHY—?
DO NOT
HOW

I ASSUMED YOU'D USE THOSE TORTURE DEVICES. I WAS ALL EXCITED!
UNFORTU-NATELY, THOSE BELONG TO MY ELDER SISTER.

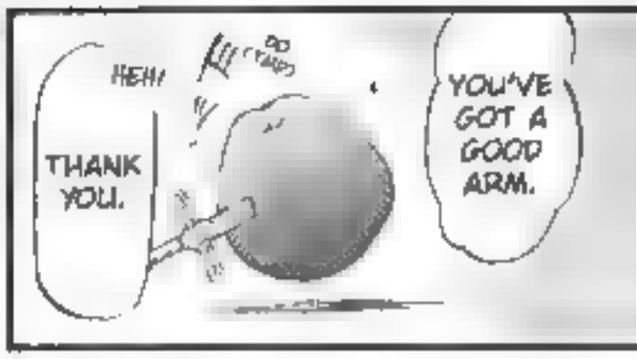
HM?
WHAT IS THIS!?

. HOW DULL.

YOU DIDN'T EVEN FLINCH.

KATSU (SHUAK)

I SUGGEST YOU END THIS GAME AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.


HEH!
THANK YOU.
YOU'VE GOT A GOOD ARM.

...BUT I'VE GOTTEN RUSTY LATELY.
I MAY MISS AT SOME POINT.

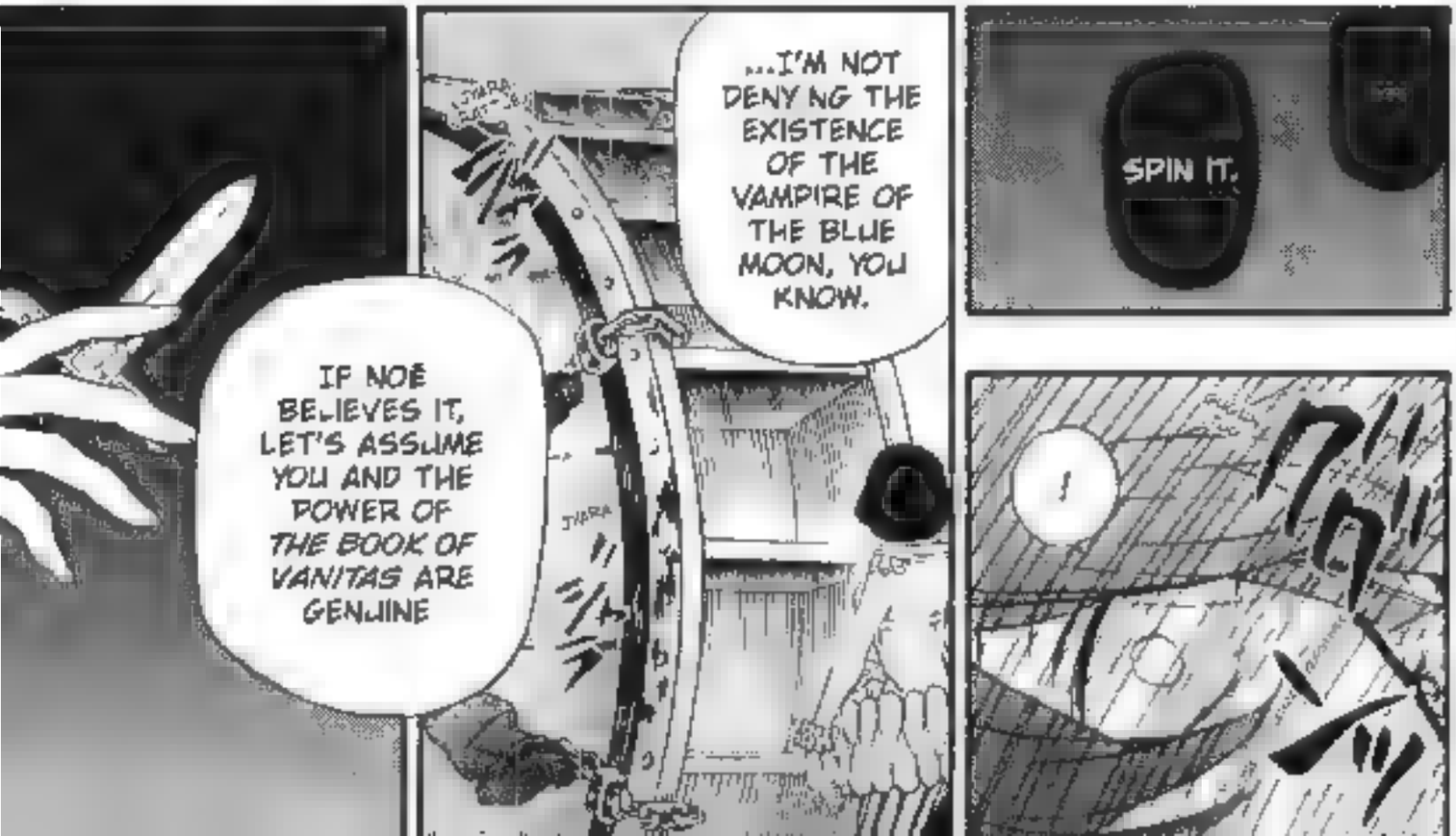
KATSU
SO...
...TELL ME.
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH NOÉ?
I WON'T STOP NOÉ FROM SIMPLY GOING AROUND WITH YOU.
IF IT'S WHAT HE WANTS, I'LL HELP AS MUCH AS I CAN.
LISTEN, HUMAN.
"WHAT" ...?
HE'S

...I'LL CARVE UP YOUR FLESH RIGHT HERE!
BUT...
. IF YOU'RE TRYING TO USE HIS POWER FOR SOMETHING ..

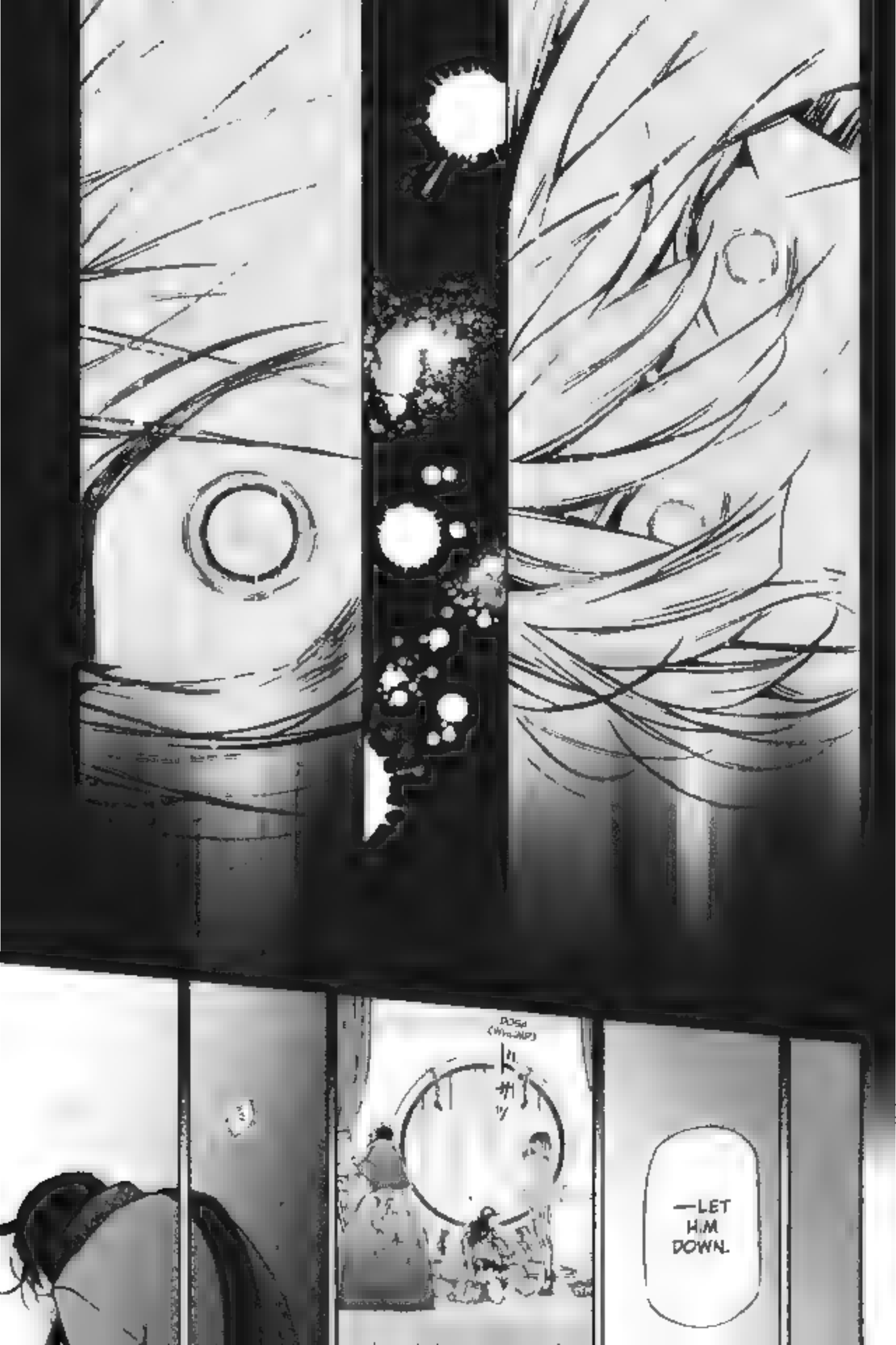
. HA HA!

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
"FRIEND" ?
IF HE GREW UP WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU, IT MAKES SENSE.
I SEE WHY NOE TURNED OUT SO SOFT AND NAIVE.

PEOPLE LIKE YOU ARE JUST "CONVENIENT FEMALES." ...THAT'S ALL.


...I'M NOT DENYING THE EXISTENCE OF THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON, YOU KNOW.
SPIN IT.
IF NOÉ BELIEVES IT, LET'S ASSUME YOU AND THE POWER OF *THE BOOK OF VANITAS* ARE GENUINE
!

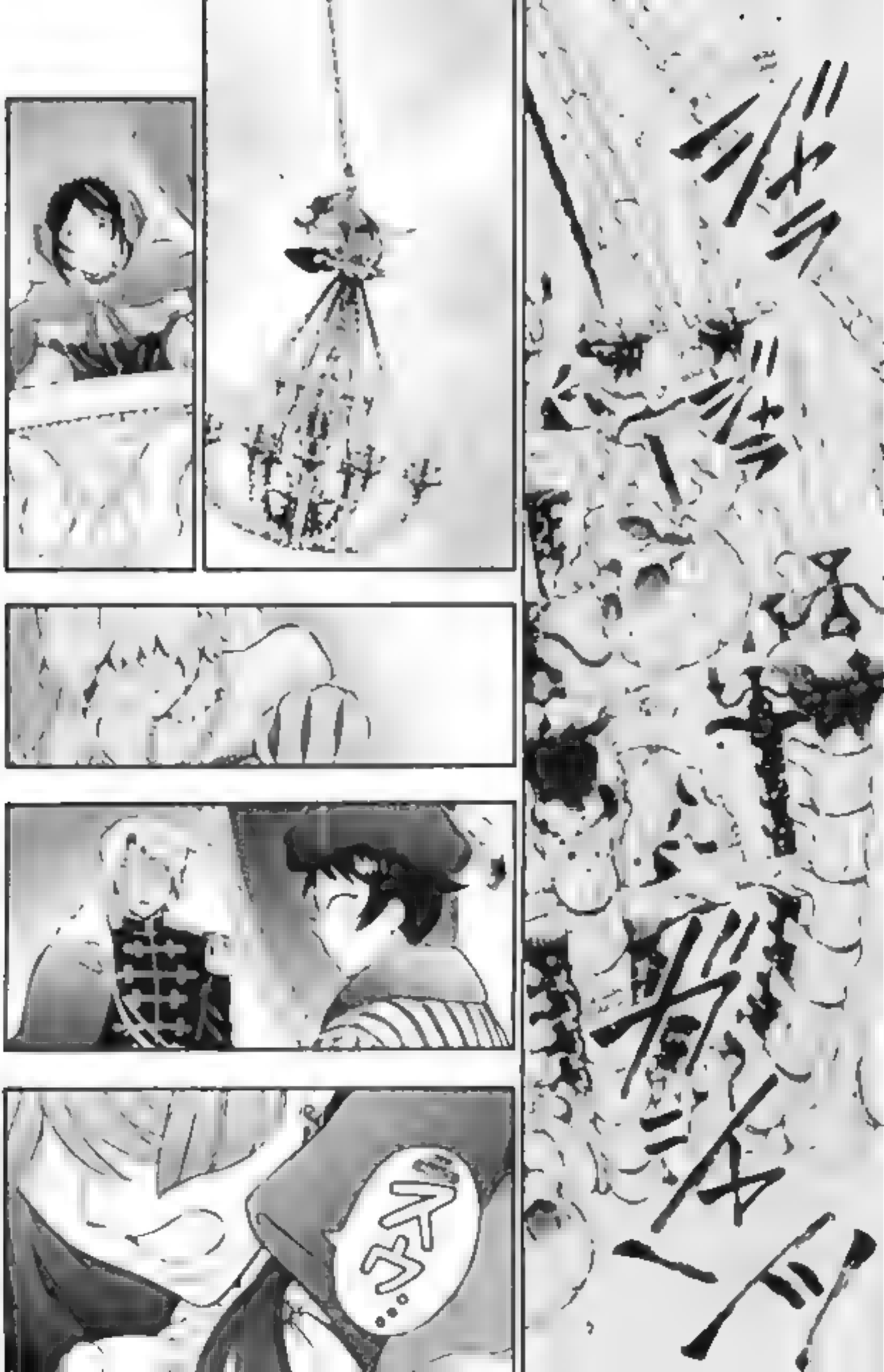
.. WHY YOU, WHO HAVE THE POWER OF THE BLUE MOON, ARE BABBLING ABOUT SAVING US, THE VAMPIRES OF THE CRIMSON MOON.
WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS..
HOW CAN YOU SWEAR YOU AREN'T AN ASSASS N SENT BY VANITAS?
VANITAS LOATHES THE VAMPIRES OF THE CRIMSON MOON. HE MUST.
HOW COULD I BEL EVE THAT?
...SHOW THAT YOU WORSHIP THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON!?
DOESN'T THE VERY FACT THAT YOU'RE USING HIS NAME...


—LET HIM DOWN.

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!
HA!
I SEE
YOU HAVE A POINT THERE

ALL THE VAMPIRES UP TILL NOW COULD ONLY THINK IN TERMS OF WHETHER THE BOOK OF VANITAS REALLY EXISTED OR NOT THE FOOLS
BUT I SEE
HAVE I BEEN GOING ABOUT THIS BACKWARD, THEN?

FIRST...
...I SHOULD HAVE BRANDED MY OWN EXISTENCE INTO YOUR BRAINS!
...WAI...


ズズ…

YOUR ATTENTION, VAMPIRES!!
I AM AN AVERAGE HUMAN BEING WHO INHERITED THE BOOK AND NAME OF VANITAS FROM THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON!!
MY NAME IS VANITAS!

HE'S ...!
WHAT IS HE DOING?
WHAT'S THAT...?
IS IT SOME SORT OF PERFORMANCE ?
!
FIRST, LET ME PROVE TO YOU THAT I AM KIN TO THE VAMPIRE OF THE BLUE MOON.

THIS...
...IS THE PROOF.

A MARK OF POSSESSION ...!?
A SHOW OF FORCE, A STATEMENT INTENDED TO REPEL OTHER VAMPIRES: "TH'S PREY IS MINE."
A MARK YOU LEAVE ON THOSE WHOSE BLOOD YOU SUCK.
THAT'S RIGHT.

I KNOW YOU CAN TELL.
YOU KNOW WHO CARVED THIS OUT
THESE MARKS APPEAR WHEN VAMPIRES EMBED A PORTION OF THEIR POWER IN SOMEONE ELSE
SO THAT ANYONE WHO SEES IT WILL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE IN THEIR POWER AT A GLANCE.
YOUR INSTINCTS TELL YOU.
YOU KNOW WHAT SORT OF POWER I WAS GRANTED ...!
...!
KILL HIM!! TEAR THAT MAN LIMB FROM LIMB! NOW!!

!?
TAKE A GOOD LOOK.
THIS IS THE BOOK OF VANITAS.

ITS POWER CAN WARP YOUR TRUE NAMES WITH EASE, CAN SEND YOU PLUMMETING INTO DESPAIR WORSE THAN DEATH.
THE CURSED GRIMOIRE VANITAS CREATED OUT OF HATRED FOR YOU, THE VAMPIRES OF THE CRIMSON MOON.

I—!
I, WHO AM KIN TO THE BLUE MOON!!
I TELL YOU I WILL USE THE BOOK OF VANITAS, NOT TO SLAUGHTER, BUT TO SAVE YOU!!
BUT REST ASSURED.
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR.
YOU ARE TRULY FORTUNATE!

...IS TREMBLE WITH HUMILIATION AND LET ME SAVE YOU!!
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO...
WHAT THE HELL DO I CARE!?
WHA ?
YOU OBJECT ?
IS THIS UNCALLED FOR?
THAT...
DOESN'T THAT SHOW THAT YOU WORSHIP HIM?
WHETHER YOU WANT ME TO OR NOT
...I WILL SAVE YOU, WITHOUT FAIL.

THAT...
...WILL BE MY REVENGE ON VANITAS !!!

...
VANITAS
...

TO BE CONTINUED...